**Gaius Iulius Caesar - Commentarii De Bello Gallico - Liber Primus - Capita VII-IX - Anglice**

**VII.** When this was told to Caesar—that they were going to try to make the journey through our province—he hastened to set out from the city and by the fastest paths he could use, he went into Further Gaul and arrived at Genua. He ordered as large a number of soldiers as he could for the whole province (altogether there was one legion in Further Gaul), and he ordered the bridge which was at Genua to be torn up. When the Helvetians grew more aware of Caesar’s arrival, They sent the most noble ambassadors of their people to him, and in the ambassadorial party Nammeius and Verucloetius held the foremost distinction. They stated that they had in mind to make the migration through the province without any ill intent, particularly since they had no other path. They also asked that it be done by Caesar’s permission. Because Caesar remembered that the consul Lucius Cassius had been killed, and the army had been defeated and sent under the yoke, didn’t think that this plan should be allowed; nor did he imagine that men with a hostile mindset would refrain from harm and ill intent when making the journey through the province. Nevertheless, in order to make some time for himself while the soldiers that he had ordered were convening, he responded to the ambassadors that he would choose a day for deliberation: if they wanted to, they should return on the Ides of April.

**VIII.** In the mean time, with this legion which he had with himself and with the soldiers whom he had mustered from the province, he constructed a new 10,000 foot long, 16 foot tall wall with a ditch from Lake Lemannus (which flows into the Rhone river) to Mount Iura (which divides the territory of the Sequani from the Helvetii). After the work was completed, he placed garrisons an built fortifications where it would be easier to prevent incursions if they tried to cross the river without his permission. When the aforementioned day came and the ambassadors returned to him, he stated that, because of the custom and precedent of the Roman people, he would not be able to open the path through the province to anyone, and if they tried by force, he demonstrated that they would be thrown back. With all hope lost, some Helvetians tried to break through with boats strung together and a number of rafts hastily made. They went by the fords of the Rhone where the river was most shallow, sometimes during the day, but more often at night if they could pull it off. Yet after they were repulsed by the wall and by the garrisons of soldiers and their weapons, they broke off this attempt.

**IX.** There remained one path through the Sequani, by which they were not able to go, because of the narrow passes and that the Sequani were unwilling. When they were unable to persuade the Sequani by their own volition, they sent envoys to Dumnorix the Haeduan, so that they might convince the Sequani by using him as a go-between. Dumnorix held the most power among the Sequani because of his grace and largesse, and he was a friend to the Helvetii, since he had married the daughter of Orgetorix, and swayed by the desire of kingship he was eager for revolution, and he wished to have as many states as possible bound under oath for his own benefit. And so he undertook the matter and convinced the Sequani to allow the Helvetii to go through their own territory, and he arranged for hostages to be exchanged between the two groups—for the Sequani to not stop the Helvetians from their journey, and for the Helvetii to make the journey without any trouble or harm.